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REPORTS OF MEETINGS

Nov. 25, 1918. Under "Timely Notes" Professor Watson exhibited a collection of several hundred moths of the Velvet Bean Caterpillar *(Anticarsia gemmatilis)* which shows unusual variation in color and markings. Professor Watson also reported severe attacks on citrus and avocado fruits by the cotton stainer at Miami.

In the first paper of the evening, "The Sweet-potato Root Weevil *(Cylas formicarius)* Situation", Mr. Bragdon gave an account of the attempt to eradicate this pest from Baker County. This comparatively small infested area was selected for three reasons: (1) isolation; (2) absence of wild host-plants of the weevil; (3) climate, all potato vines being killed by cold during the winter.——The Bureau of Ent. U. S. D. A. has established a laboratory at Macclenny which will attend primarily to the eradication work. The Plant Board's share in the work consists principally in maintaining the necessary quarantines. One or two growers who cooperated from the very beginning have apparently already cleared their farms of weevils. The method of procedure is, in brief: (1) to collect and destroy the last vestige of potatoes at digging time; (2) to sort and destroy all infested potatoes at digging time; (3) to dispose of all potatoes by February in order to starve out the weevils; (4) to plant vines free of weevils and to plant late; (5) to locate this year's fields as far as possible from those of last year.——Mr. Bragdon exhibited a map showing the infested regions—Texas, Louisiana, Alabama (Mobile Co.), and Georgia. Another map showed a narrow infested strip, five to eight miles wide, bordering the coast from Tarpon Springs on the west to Ormond on the east coast. Above those points on each side there is a break in the distribution of the sea-side morning-glory, the native host-plant of the weevil. This apparently accounts for the absence of the weevils on the beaches north of those points.

The second paper of the evening was by Dr. Berger, who gave a brief account of the larvae, pupae and adults and showed specimens of one of the Soldier Flies *(Stratiomyidae)*. These dirty gray maggots and dark brown leathery, active, pupae were found living in the droppings of chimney swallows that had accumulated to the volume of about half a hushel on a ledge inside the chimney just above the fireplace. The droppings, apparently made up mostly of insect remains, were quite alive with several sizes of these larvae and pupae. The species was identified by Prof. Watson as *Hermetia illudens* SC, a common scavenger in rotting potatoes and insects. The adult Stratiomydae are reported as frequenting flowers, but in the larval stages as living in decaying vegetable matter.

Both papers were discussed by those present.

Dec. 30. Under "Timely Notes" Prof. Watson directed attention to the scarcity during the past fall of a group of tropical insects which extend into the southern U. S. including the Zebra Butterfly *(Heliconius charithonia),* the Bella Moth *(Utethesia bella),* and the Gulf Fritillary *(Agraulis vanillae,* and *Anticarsia).* He is of the opinion that the severe winter of 1917-18 may be the cause of the scarcity of these tropical species.

Mr. Stirling stated that the Cotton Stainer was causing unprecedented injury to citrus fruit this fall and winter, especially in Polk and DeSoto Counties.

The paper of the evening, "Modern Bee Keeping", by Frank Stirling (published in THE BUGGIST, Vol. II, No. 3), was next read and discussed.

Jan. 27, 1919. H. S. Davis in the chair. The annual election of officers resulted: President, F. M. O'Byrne; vice president, Geo. B. Merrill; secretary-treasurer, P. W. Fattig; executive committee, Dr. J. H. Montgomery; editor of THE FLORIDA BUGGIST, J. R. Watson; associate editor, Wilmon Newell; business manager, E. W. Berger.

Under "Timely Notes" Mr. Frank Stirling reported finding two specimens of the Palmetto Weevil *(Rhyncophorus cruentatus)* in a bud of cabbage palmetto which he cut for eating while on a hunting trip on the Suwannee River a few miles south of Vista, in Levy County. Prof. Watson reported finding the Big-legged and the Leaf-footed Plant-bugs *(Acanthocephalus femeratus* and *Leptoglossus phyllopus)* hibernating in large numbers in the large thistles so common in pastures. These thistles should be cut during the winter.——Mr. Bragdon reported finding *Euscepes porcellus* on moonvine on the shores of Lake Okeechobee and on seaside morning-glory at Ft. Pierce; and the Sweet-potato Root Weevil on sweet-potatoes at Titusville.

Mr. R. L. Warner read the paper of the evening on "Side Lights on the Black Fly in Cuba". Mr. Warner served from Feb. to Aug. 1918 in Cuba in an advisory capacity to the Cubans in their efforts to control this aleurodid *(Aleurocanthus woglumi)*.

REPORT OF THE SECRETARY-TREASURER FOR 1918

RECEIPTS

Balance received from previous Secretary-Treasurer	$16.95
Dues received to January 27, 1919	46.50
Total receipts	$63.45

EXPENDITURES

100 Notice-Dues Cards, Pepper Printing Co.	$ 1.50
Stamps	1.25
3 Rubber Stamps, Balbin Stamp Co., Tampa	.87
125 Notices of dues due	2.35
The Florida Buggist, printing, Mar., June, and Sept. Nos.	56.35
Total expenditures	$62.32
Balance on hand	1.13
	$63.45

E. W. BERGER, Sec'y-Treasurer.

March 3, 1919. The Society was called to order by the President with the following members present: E. W. Berger, F. M. O'Byrne, G. B. Merrill, J. R. Watson, P. H. Rolfs, Frank Stirling, J. E. Graf, E. K. Bynum, J. Chaffin and H. S. Davis. Visitors present were Miss Evelyn Osborn and C. H. Popenoe of the Bureau of Entomology, Washington. The following were elected to membership: Dr. Roger C. Smith, U. S. Ent. Lab., Charlottesville, Va., and E. K. Bynum, State Plant Board, Gainesville, Fla. The resignation of P. W. Fattig as secretary-treasurer was read and accepted and Dr. H. S. Davis was elected to succeed him.

Mr. G. B. Merrill then read a paper on "Some New Florida Scales". Since the publication of the paper on "Some Florida Scale Insects" by C. E. Wilson in the Quarterly Bulletin, State Plant Board, Oct. 1917, 11 additional species have been found in the state. The more important facts regarding each species were briefly summarized. (This paper will be published in the Quarterly Bulletin State Plant Board.)

This was followed by a paper on "Mealy-bugs" by J. Chaffin. Less work has been done on these insects than on any other group of the Coccidae. About 76 species have been described—43 of them from California. Practically no work has been done on these insects in Florida and there are probably fully as many species in the state as in California. Five species have already been collected from citrus.

Mar. 22, 1919. In place of the regular March meeting a smoker for Mr. George Compere, Plant Quarantine Inspector of California, was held. The following members were present: F. M. O'Byrne, E. W. Berger, Wilmon Newell, O. T. Stone, J. C. Goodwin, Frank Stirling, J. H. Montgomery, A. C. Brown, J. Chaffin, G. B. Merrill and H. S. Davis. There were present as guests George Compere, J. C. Holton, J. R. Fulk, Jno. Spencer, J. J. Grimm, C. H. Willoughby and Mr. F. S. Dresskell of Chicago. The regular order of business was dispensed with and Mr. Compere gave an informal and exceedingly interesting address on "Parasitic Insects". This consisted largely of personal reminiscences of his work in introducing insect parasites into California and Australia, following the introduction of the Vedalia, or Australian Lady-beetle, to combat the Cottony Cushion Scale in California in 1888.

Roughly speaking, a species is a collection of individuals which resemble each other as closely as the offspring of a single parent.—Comstock.

A genus is a group of species. Thus all the species of pine trees belong to the genus *Pinus*.

Observation, record, generalization, experiment, verification—these are the processes necessary for the mastery of this subject.—Forbes.